

Message Text

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15

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, UR, (KOROLEV, Y. K., AND VOLODIN, V. I.)

SUBJECT: SOVIET ARTISTS (SPACE)

REF: STATE 225097

1. EMBASSY SHOULD ALTER TENTATIVE PROGRAM FOR VOLODIN AND KOROLEV TO OMIT PROMISED TOURS OF CAPE CANAVERAL AND THE SPACE FACILITY IN HOUSTON. NASA IS OBJECTING THAT THEY ARE NOT SUFFICIENTLY HIGH-RANKING TO DESERVE SUCH A BONUS, AND ARGUES FURTHER THAT IT IS NASA PRACTICE TO PROVIDE SUCH TOURS TO SOVIETS ONLY WHEN PROSPECT FOR A RECIPROCAL TOUR OF SOVIET SPACE FACILITIES IS GOOD.

2. WE ARE TALKING TO NASA IN AN ATTEMPT TO DEVELOP SOME OTHER SPACE-ORIENTED FEATURE IN THE PROGRAM, AND WILL PASS TO THE EMBASSY AS SOON AS WE HAVE IT. IN VIEW OF TIME PRESSURE, EMBASSY MAY WISH TO PRESS ON WITH MEETING WITH VOLODIN AND KOROLEV AND SIMPLY FINESSE THE HOUSTON/CANAVERAL ISSUE FOR THE TIME BEING. ROBINSON

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